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17 August 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Intelligence Requirements Officer

SUBJECT : Current Interest in Heavy Bomber Production

1. Herewith is a cable from the Director which attracted my attention because it indicates a major concern [redacted] with estimates of Soviet heavy bomber production. Since seeing this cable I have learned from other sources that there is currently great interest in this matter in the U.S. Intelligence Community. I gather that for reasons unknown to me, our current estimates of Soviet production are considered unreliable and that additional hard evidence is believed to be very urgently needed.

2. I raise this matter with you in order to suggest that, if the above information is correct, there should be prepared a very short (one-half page) statement of this need as a requirement for AQUATONE photography. What I have in mind is a companion piece to the OSI paper on the [redacted] A paper of this sort naming certain of the specific targets on which coverage should be obtained would be valuable if it were ready in time for the 5:00 meeting on Monday and should be ready by mid-week at the latest in preparation for possible other use.

3. I might say for your information that a high level briefing may be given along with a request for additional authorizations some time next week. It will be important to know at that time exactly what coverage we most want and why.

Att: Agency Cable [redacted]

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

RMB:djm
1-Addressee
2-Deputy Proj. Director
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